



Ministry
of Defence

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Ref: FOI2016/10909

29 November 2016

Dear [REDACTED]

Thank you for your letter of 25 October 2016 requesting the following information:

"How many Veterans there are in England aged 70 years or younger?"

I am treating your correspondence as a request for information under the Freedom of Information Act 2000.

I am writing to advise you that following a search of our recorded information, I have established that the information you requested is not held by the Ministry of Defence (MOD).

However, under Section 16 (Advice and Assistance) you may find it helpful to note the following:

The MOD *estimates* that in 2015 there were 926,452 UK Armed Forces veterans aged 70 and under residing in England.

This estimate has been produced from data used to compile the MOD 'Annual Population Survey: UK Armed Forces Veterans residing in Great Britain' Official Statistic. This Official Statistic presents estimates on the size and socio-demographic characteristics of the UK Armed Forces veteran population within Great Britain, using responses provided in the Annual Population Survey (APS) produced by the Office for National Statistics (ONS). APS respondents were asked a number of questions to identify if they were a veteran. Due to size of the sample which took part in the Annual Population Survey 2015 (N = 309,890) the results are considered the most reliable estimates of the UK veteran population. Veterans are defined as individuals aged 16+ who reside in households in Great Britain and have previously served in the UK Armed Forces as either a regular or reserve.

The 'Annual Population Survey: UK Armed Forces Veterans residing in Great Britain' Official Statistic can be found on the Gov.UK website: <https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/annual-population-survey-uk-armed-forces-veterans-residing-in-great-britain>

Would you like to be added to our contact list, so that we can inform you about updates to our statistical publications covering the War Pension Scheme and Gulf Mortality Statistics and consult you if we are thinking of making changes? You can subscribe to updates by emailing: DefStrat-Stat-Health-PQ-FOI@mod.uk.

If you are not satisfied with this response or you wish to complain about any aspect of the handling of your request, then you should contact me in the first instance. If informal resolution is not possible and you are still dissatisfied then you may apply for an independent internal review by contacting the Information Rights Compliance team, Ground Floor, MOD Main Building, Whitehall, SW1A 2HB (e-mail CIO-FOI-IR@mod.uk). Please note that any request for an internal review must be made within 40 working days of the date on which the attempt to reach informal resolution has come to an end.

If you remain dissatisfied following an internal review, you may take your complaint to the Information Commissioner under the provisions of Section 50 of the Freedom of Information Act. Please note that the Information Commissioner will not investigate your case until the MOD internal review process has been completed. Further details of the role and powers of the Information Commissioner can be found on the Commissioner's website, <https://ico.org.uk/>.

Yours sincerely,

Defence Statistics (Health) Head (B1)